



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
Two Gateway Center
Newark, NJ 07102

ENERGY

I/M/O The Electric Discount and Energy)
Competition Act of 1999 – Customer)
Account Services)

SCHEDULING ORDER

Docket No. EX99090676

(Service List Attached)

BY THE BOARD:

On February 9, 1999, Governor Whitman signed into law the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act ("the Act"), N.J.S.A. 48:3-49 et. seq. Among other things, the Act required that the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board"), by Order, provide that electric and natural gas customers be given the opportunity to choose a supplier for some or all electric or natural gas customer accounts services not later than one year from the starting date of retail competition, N.J.S.A. 48:3-54. The Act defines Customer Accounts Services ("CAS") as "metering, billing, or such other administrative activity associated with maintaining a customer account." N.J.S.A. 48:3-51.

The CAS proceeding established by the Board has been a generic process involving all of the State's gas and electric utilities. On November 9, 2000, the Board approved two stipulations in the Customer Account Services proceeding. The stipulations as approved by the Board resolve the CAS matters for Atlantic City Electric Company d/b/a Conectiv Power Delivery, Jersey Central Power and Light Company d/b/a GPU Energy, New Jersey Natural Gas Company and Public Service Electric & Gas Company.

The Board notes that Elizabethtown Gas Company, Rockland Electric Company and South Jersey Gas Company are still discussing CAS settlement possibilities. Hearings in these CAS proceedings were suspended by Commissioner Frederick F. Butler based on representations by the participants that they were making positive progress towards a comprehensive settlement of the issues. The Board further observes that sufficient time has passed since the suspension of hearings in July, 2000 for the participants to determine if a settlement is possible. The Board FINDS that: (1) the proceedings for the three remaining utilities need to be brought to a conclusion, and (2) the parties in these proceedings have had a reasonable amount of time to explore settlement options.

Therefore, absent the submission of a settlement to the Board in the Elizabethtown Gas Company, Rockland Electric Company and South Jersey Gas Company CAS proceedings by December 8, 2000, the Board will schedule the completion of the necessary hearings and subsequent briefing.

DATED: December 6, 2000

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:

signed
HERBERT H. TATE
PRESIDENT

signed
CARMEN J. ARMENTI
COMMISSIONER

signed
FREDERICK F. BUTLER
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST: signed
FRANCES L. SMITH
SECRETARY